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Trade Unionism and Labor Problems: Second Series. Edited by
JOHN R. COMMONS.

The new edition of *Trade Unionism and Labor Problems* resembles the old edition in one respect only. Like the edition published in 1905 it includes a series of reprints of articles written by men and women prominent in the labor field either as students, employers, or labor leaders. But even in this respect the resemblance between the two series is nominal rather than real, for the articles in the later volume show a wider range than the former, and at the same time the material indicates a sympathetic approach to the labor philosophies of the last decade. The changes which have taken place in the world of industry and labor have brought within the scope of the present volume labor material of recent origin thereby giving an opportunity to voice the constructive ideals of a socially minded intellectual class.

The book is divided into five parts, each of which represents a different approach to the labor problem. The chapters in each part centers around the main question under discussion, and each is a scientific study of some particular phase of the question by an individual who has won distinction for himself in his particular field.

The first part is entitled "Security" and the opening chapter is written by Professor Commons—entitled "Industrial Relations." It is in the nature of an introduction to the volume but it would serve as a summary as well, for in it he enumerates the labor problems in the order of their importance and suggests feasible programs of action which he thinks will go far to alleviate many of the causes of friction between employers and employees, and at the same time will promote the general social well-being of the country. He offers no panacea for industrial peace, but suggests that security of the workman—security against the vicissitudes arising out of industrial accidents, industrial diseases, and unemployment—would go far toward mitigating present-day social unrest. "Western civilization is built upon security of investments, and it is the insecurity of labor that menaces it."

The main cause for the insecurity of both labor and capital, he thinks, is the instability of prices due to the fluctuating purchasing power of the dollar.

The fluctuation of currency is the greatest of all labor problems. It throws a red brick continually into capital and labor. The first great method of importance in bringing about industrial peace is the stabilizing of the dollar. If we could have a system of currency in which the great price movements which have been occurring in all these years could be stabilized, we would do

more to stabilize industry, to bring about industrial peace, than any other one thing. In times of rising prices we have restrictions, aggressive movements; in times of falling prices we have unemployment, bankruptcy, and depression. The whole situation is rendered unstable, and we are living continuously in a period of uncertainty.

Capital and labor cannot alone prevent the fluctuation of prices, but if wages were adjusted to meet these price changes, without labor first resorting to the strike, much friction and ill will could be avoided.

In the first edition of the book the discussion of compensation laws was given last place in the series. In the new edition the opening chapters are devoted to "American Experience with Workmen's Compensation"; "Compulsory Health Insurance"; "The British National System of Unemployment Insurance"; "Trade-Union Sickness Insurance and Health Programs." This order is significant of the shifting of general point of view. Security against the vicissitudes of our industrial life is foremost in men's minds. In comparison, all the other problems are relatively simple.

Similarly chapters on labor management claim prior attention over the chapters on labor unions. Indeed, the reader is made conscious of the fact that scientific management that deals with committees and unions is heralded as a movement which places the conflicts between employers and employees on a higher plane of intelligence than did the earlier methods of collective bargaining. "But management without democracy is the very despotism that provokes revolution, and the problem of industry is truly the problem of management."

The concluding chapters of the book deal with the law; the part played by the state through legislation, administration, and judicial decisions. The development of the law in labor cases is given in historical sequence. The earlier decisions, based on the theory of freedom of contract, are gradually giving way to the exercise of the police power of the state. There is a hopeful tendency in later-day decisions to give weight to social interests as opposed to individual interests, thus giving to the judiciary a range of power which makes it the real guardian of the social state.

The articles on "American Minimum-Wage Laws at Work," and "The Operation of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act of Canada" bring us into contact with the practical working of laws, the efficacy of which are still occasionally questioned.

The concluding chapter by Professor Commons is entitled "Eight-Hour Shifts by Law." "When the question of constitutionality of an

eight-hour law for continuous industries comes before the court, other arguments beside the health arguments must be allowed a place, or the legislation will fall under the judicial veto. These additional arguments may be summed up under the head of *citizenship*."

To those students of labor problems who look to producers' co-operation as a partial solution of present-day labor difficulties this volume will be something of a disappointment. No space has been allotted to the co-operative movement. Likewise, organized employers who are attempting to meet their labor problems by an energetic campaign to establish the open-shop in industry may feel neglected. A chapter on the activities of the associated industries might fittingly have followed the one by Nikolai Lenin on the "Scientific Management and Dictatorship of the Proletariat."

As a case book in modern labor problems the volume will undoubtedly hold first place for some time to come. But unlike most case books, the materials have been marshalled in a logical order of sequence and make a continuous narrative. At no time is the reader's interest impaired by the consciousness that he is gleaning facts from a mass of illustrative material in order to enliven an assigned classroom text. Indeed, it is apparent that the editor has kept in mind his preconceived plan to provide a text in labor problems which possesses the fundamental requirements of a well-organized book and contains at the same time the illustrative material necessary to humanize a theoretical treatise.

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Balkanized Europe. A Study in Political Analysis and Reconstruction. By PAUL SCOTT MOWRER. New York: E. P. Dutton and Co.

Is it snobbish to raise the question why overmuch occupation with journalism in the long run invariably dulls the cutting power of the keenest intellect? If Mr. Mowrer's book on present-day Europe is disappointing, it is not because he is unintelligent or indolent, but rather because he is too content to let his mind play lightly over the surface of things. It is difficult not to arrive at the conclusion that the newspaper man's habit of taking the short or sensuous view of events and, more particularly, his dependence on the professional window-dressers of the state departments which he haunts are accountable for this inconclusive